

People will be out there. They will try to make their living, try to pay their bills, try to get into their home. But what we are doing in this committee and what we have to continue to do, and I am sure we will with the ranking member and the gentlelady from California and with her tenacity on this issue, her concern for people, as the members of the committee have been concerned about these issues, we will continue to do that. Because people are willing to sacrifice. But we have got to help them along, and we have got to give them some assistance as a government.

I am very proud of the subcommittee and very proud of Mr. MILLER and the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, in closing, let me just say what a pleasure it has been for me serving on this subcommittee with Chairman NEY. Not only has he provided strong leadership for homeownership, as he alluded to, we have made visits not only in California but in Louisiana and Mississippi, not only looking at CDBG and section 8 and these very important programs that are helping Americans have decent and safe living conditions but leading to homeownership oftentimes.

The attention that was paid to Katrina victims and what took place in the gulf coast region has not been matched by anyone. Mr. NEY took it upon himself and his committee to go there and to spend the time taking a look at all aspects of this disaster.

And while we were there, we were able to understand what the insurance companies were or were not doing. We were able to understand what was happening with public housing. We were able to understand what was happening with the trailers, who was getting them, who was not getting them. And we were able to work very closely with Mr. BAKER, with Mr. JEFFERSON and with others who come from that region to begin to talk about how we are going to build homes, how we are going to replace those homes, how we are going to be able to use CDBG funds to make sure that people have the opportunity to not only rebuild their homes but to restore their lives.

With that, Mr. Speaker, again I thank Chairman NEY. I thank Vice Chairman MILLER.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 854, a resolution recognizing June 2006 as National Homeownership Month, a time for individuals and families to reach for part of the American dream and purchase a home of their own.

In recognition of National Homeownership Month and in my capacity as Chairman and Co-founder of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, I became an original co-sponsor of House Resolution 854.

In the United States, each individual has the opportunity to own a home of their own. Homeownership inspires

civic responsibility. Homeowners are more likely to vote and get involved with local issues.

Families owning a home are able to offer children a stable living environment. In many cases, homeownership influences a child's personal development in many positive, measurable ways.

Twenty percent of our Nation's population lives in rural communities, yet a majority of these families live in substandard housing conditions.

These communities simply do not have the resources—either economic or infrastructure—to address the problems of substandard housing. The gap between the haves and have nots continues to grow, especially in rural America. Now is the time to stem this tide.

According to the Census Bureau, 48 percent of African-Americans; and, 50 percent of Hispanics owned a home as of the first quarter in 2006. While many gains have been made, lagging minority homeownership rates are a serious concern to me and Congress.

Rural America and minorities are in dire need of housing assistance—and we should all strive to make every month “homeownership month.”

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California—and fellow homebuilder—Congressman MILLER, for his sponsorship of this resolution.

More Americans own their home than ever before. Nearly 70 percent of American's are homeowners. So it is a good time for us to assess the positive impacts of homeownership on families, communities and on the nation's economy.

When a family owns their own home, they have a greater stake in their community. In addition to shelter, that family also has an asset that appreciates in value.

Communities with high rates of homeownership often have residents who are more involved in local schools, civic organizations and churches.

Housing has led our nation's economic expansion over the past few years, accounting for 16 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. New housing starts and home sales hit record levels from 2003 through 2005.

Although housing sales and starts have cooled to more typical levels, the housing market remains strong and sound. Without the expansion of homeownership and the strength of our housing market, our nation would not have the economic growth we are experiencing today.

It is important that Congress pass tax, regulatory and housing finance policies to continue this growth and to help make the dream of homeownership a reality for even more Americans.

The Housing Subcommittee has advanced legislation this year that modernizes the Federal Housing Administration. In order for FHA to continue to offer assistance to first-time buyers and buyers with lower incomes, FHA needs more flexibility to keep pace with changes in the mortgage marketplace. The House needs to approve H.R. 5121.

When regulations on the housing industry are reasonable, the cost of housing goes

down. Regulatory relief is needed to make housing more affordable to more Americans.

One step Congress should take to make regulations more reasonable is passage of H.R. 5558, which makes common-sense reforms to storm water permitting.

Before coming to Congress, I spent a lot of time in the housing business. The housing market has been through ups and downs, but through all the changes, home ownership continues to be vital for families, communities and the nation's economy.

This resolution today affirms Congress' support for homeownership and the importance of homeownership in our country.

I urge support for the resolution and support for sound housing policies in Congress.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 854.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, H.R. 42, and H.R. 5341 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adoption of H. Res. 890, by the yeas and nays;

Adoption of the conference report on H.R. 889, by the yeas and nays;

Passage of H.R. 4843, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5672, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 890, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.